



Ohio State University Extension Exploring Wild Mushrooms & Macrofungi in Extension Education

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SITUATION

Whether driven by a desire to understand the natural world or to forage, the demand for accurate and science-based information on wild mushrooms has increased. Currently, resources provided by Extension on this subject are limited compared to other subject areas. Therefore, a need was identified for building more comprehensive, scientifically-backed resources for those interested in learning more about wild mushrooms, including landowners, foragers, gardeners, and nature enthusiasts.

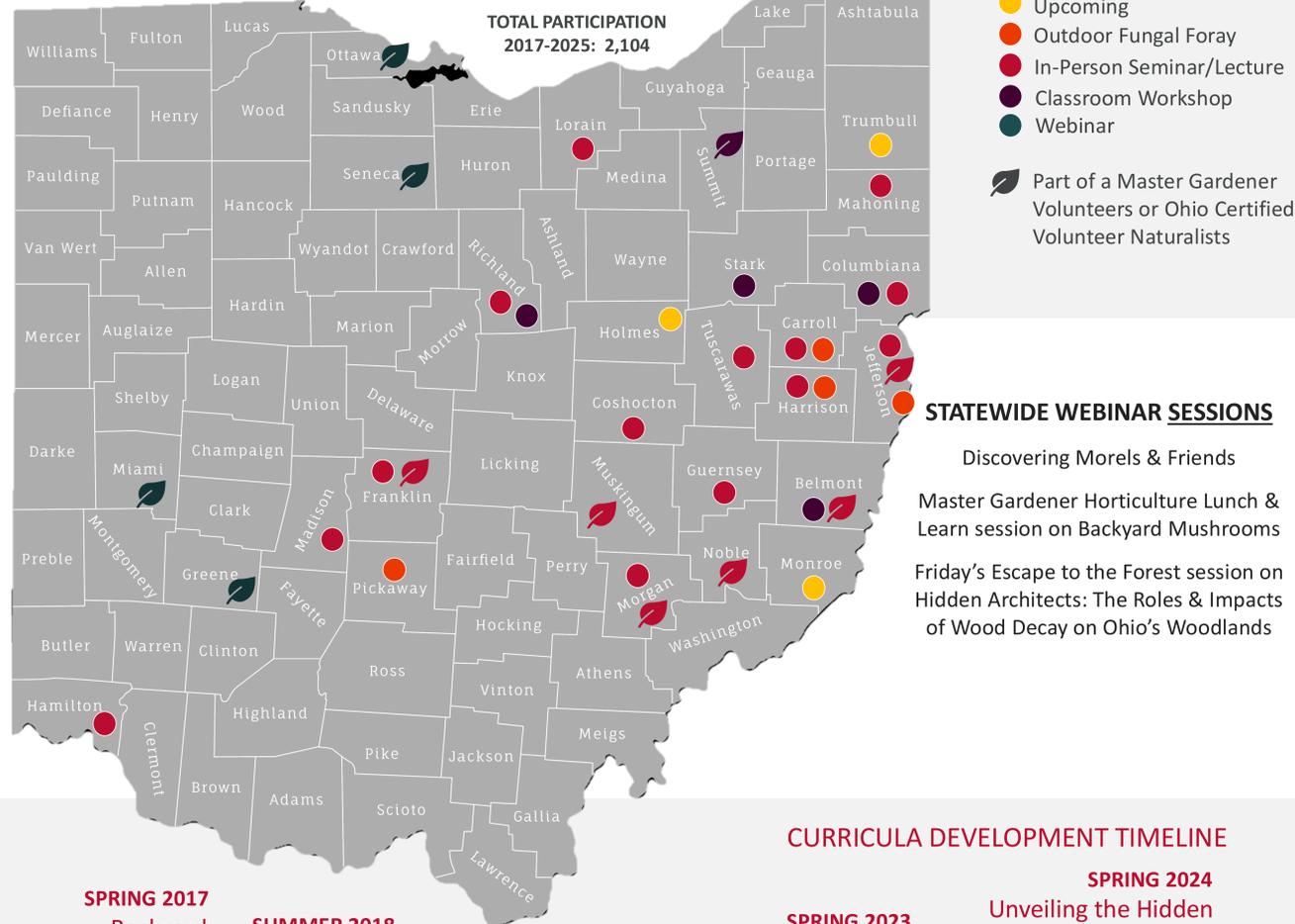
EDUCATIONAL FORMATS

- Lectures or Seminars**
- Classroom Workshops**
- Video Recordings**
- Webinars**
- Fungal Forays**

HOSTING ORGANIZATIONS

- Camp Canopy
- Central Ohio Home & Garden Show
- East Central Ohio Forestry Association
- Environmental Education Council of Ohio
- Friends of Ottawa National Wildlife Refuge
- Worthington Hills Garden Club
- Hilliard Area Garden Club
- Hike Toronto
- Leetonia Sportsman's Club
- Pickaway County Park District
- Public Library of Steubenville & Jefferson County
- Lepper Library
- Ohio State University Master Gardener Volunteers
- Ohio Woodland Stewards Council of Ohio
- Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalists
- Ohio State University Extension
- Belmont Soil & Water Conservation District
- Harrison Soil & Water Conservation District

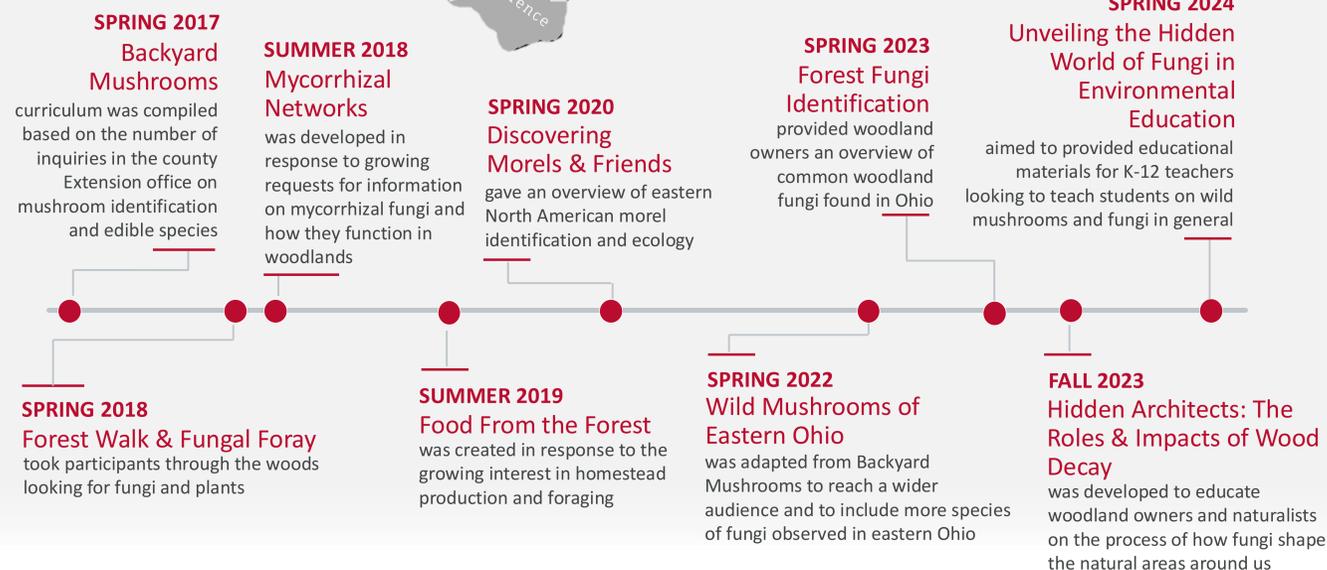
WILD MUSHROOM PROGRAMS HELD ACROSS OHIO



STATEWIDE WEBINAR SESSIONS

- Discovering Morels & Friends
- Master Gardener Horticulture Lunch & Learn session on Backyard Mushrooms
- Friday's Escape to the Forest session on Hidden Architects: The Roles & Impacts of Wood Decay on Ohio's Woodlands

CURRICULA DEVELOPMENT TIMELINE



LESSONS LEARNED

- Over 2,000 Ohioans participated in wild mushroom and macrofungi programs
- Participants like to see more mushrooms! Initial comments on evaluations indicated an interest in learning about species beyond the common edible species
- Need identified for more in-depth workshops on identifying mushrooms using visual examination of specimens and microscopy

MOVING FORWARD

Certification Course

- Provide an advanced course for naturalists and foragers, especially those who sell wild mushrooms
- Cover food safety regulations in Ohio
- Hands-on, in-depth workshop sessions where participants learn to use identification keys to identify collected mushrooms using morphological and microscopic features



LEARN MORE

Visit u.osu.edu/ohwildmushrooms or use the QR code on the left to find examples of past presentations and a list of resources to use in wild mushroom education.

